(c) in what manner the said ashes are now proposed to be dispersed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that a box of the size 18"X18"X20", reported to be containing the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi, was deposited with it on 29-11-1950 by the then Secretary to Chief Minister, Government of Orissa and since then has been lying with its Cuttack Branch.

(c) State Bank of India are in touch with the Government authorities at the State level to decide on the further course of action in this regard.

Reduction in import duty

904. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are reducing import duties of such of the products of which there is rise in the prices in the country;

(b) if so, the number of items whose prices increased in the country which import duty has been reduced and imported in the country giving details thereof item-wise;

(c) the details of the items whose prices have increased in 1994 over the prices prevailing in 1993; and

(d) whether the reduction in the import duty is the only solution to check the rise in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) In view of the ensuing budget, it is not possible to indicate the views of the Government in this matter.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Manufactured products registered an annual increase of 9.49% based on the Whole Sale Price Index for the week ending 19-11-94 showing generally the increase in prices for such products.

(d) The prices of commodities depend on several factors such as market forces, demand and supply position, etc.

Non-performing assets of public Sector Banks

905. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pelased to state :

(a) the amount of and percentage of non-performing assets of each Public Sector Bank, each year from 1991 to 1994;

(b) what is the position of all these banks in respect of realisation of overdue amounts and to what progress in percentage has been made by each bank to expedite the realisation from 1991 to 1994: and

(c) the number of bank employees who have been found to be involved in faulty loans and whether any action has been taken against them during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per available information, the non-performing assets of nationalised banks for the year ended 31st March, 1993 and 31st March, 1994 were Rs. 23,373.46 crores (22.6% to total) and Rs. 25,599.17 crores (24.4% to the total) respectively. RBI urther stated that the increases in quantum of the non-performing assests for the year ended 31-3-94 over the previous year i mainly on account of classificatios